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Prof. Dusseault

Art 3910

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Exhibition Review

Nothing Ventured // Nothing Gained is a photography exhibition by artist Jill Frank that was displayed at the Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia from September 23rd to November 19th, 2016. Consisting of twenty-five photos, many on large life-like prints exceeding 2’x2’ and some much smaller, Frank’s photos were all captured using a large format film camera. Many of the images were wall mounted and framed while eight were suspended in four large frames with a photo on the front and back. The set of photos occupied the space quite well as a whole and the hanging photos contributed towards a positive experience of viewing the work all together.



I chose this exhibition because I viewed it on a field trip with my Intro to Photography class. I could relate well with the images compositionally/conceptually and even knew somebody in one of the photos. The theme of the photos in the exhibition were youth centered supported by prints mostly consisting of portraits of young adults. Many of these portraits were taken the morning after a large party in which the individuals had partaken in the excesses of early college life and partying, such as drinking and smoking. Frank’s photos define a common stereotype of people at this age, young, careless, and concerned with their social image.



The artist’s use of formal elements in this photo such as centering and having the subject look out of the frame on the far side aims to aide a strong emphasis on the subject and her features. In terms of composition, the horizontal lines in the photo are perfectly symmetrical and there is plenty of room left above the subject’s head at the top of the frame leading to an overall appealing portrait. The photo was taken at a time in which the subject had a visibly drained expression, hair was disheveled, and makeup was messy further contributing to the archetypal view of an average teenager after a long night of partying. Much of the artist’s hand is visible through these elements and makes the audience question how much Frank played a part in exaggerating the scene. The use of natural light and shadows gives the photo more organic feel establishing a presence outside and at what would appear to be an apartment complex. This was one of the photos in the large frames that were suspended from the ceiling in the middle of the exhibition room.

The staff at MOCA Ga was extremely welcoming and engaging to us as we visited the exhibition. The setup was conducive to viewing the Frank Exhibit and there were two entrances to the installation room. Coming from another exhibit into this one was seamless experience as the layout of the museum flowed very well. The artist’s photos were framed and hung at eye level all around the four walls of the room along with the larger photos hanging in frames from the ceiling. My experience here was a positive one and my viewing of Jill Frank’s photos has left a lasting impression on me.

**Link to MOCA Ga calendar page with the Frank Exhibition** - <http://mocaga.org/calendar/wap-jill-frank/>